

REMARKS

Please cancel Claims 9 and 21 without prejudice. Claims 1-8, 10-20 and 22-35 are pending. Claims 1, 15, 22, 24, 25 and 29 are amended herein. Claims 33-35 are presented herein for the first time. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 13-15, 17, 19, 25, 27-29 and 30-32

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 13-15, 17, 19, 25, 27-29 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gopal, et al. ("Gopal;" U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0032263) in view of Jawahar, et al. ("Jawahar;" U. S. Patent No. 6,289,333). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

Claim 1 recites:

A method for handling timer expiration exceptions, transaction exceptions, and network exceptions in a business-to-business transaction, comprising the steps of:

- monitoring an internet gateway through which the business-to-business transaction passes timer expiration exceptions, transaction exceptions, and network exceptions, wherein if an exception is detected:
 - automatically locating an authorized representative;
 - automatically notifying the authorized representative of the exception;
 - automatically establishing a collaboration session between representatives of the business-to-business transaction.

Applicants submit that neither Gopal nor Jawahar renders obvious a method or system for handling timer expiration exceptions or transaction exceptions.

Therefore, the combination fails to render obvious handling timer expiration exceptions and transaction exceptions, as claimed.

Gopal fails to render obvious handling timer expiration exceptions and transaction exceptions for the following reasons. Gopal discloses a system and method for message delivery (see paragraphs [0007], [0008], [0019], and [0029]). Specifically, Gopal discloses a system for monitoring the “real-time status and operation” of a message delivery network, and for recovering undeliverable messages, tracking delivery status, determining average transmission latency and determining the content of previously delivered messages (paragraph [0029]). In summary, Gopal teaches a “system and method allowing businesses to send electronic messages, or other information, to conduct business over a digital network such as the Internet” (Abstract).

Gopal fails to render obvious a system or method for handling timer expiration exceptions. As claimed by applicants, a timer expiration exception is issued “when a sending application does not receive a confirmation within a predetermined time period.” Gopal discloses a system and method for archiving duplicate copies of messages, retaining duplicate messages until confirmation is received that a transmission is successful, and delivering archived duplicates if there is a failure or delay in the message delivery process (Fig. 2). However, Gopal fails to render obvious “automatically locating an authorized representative” and “automatically notifying the authorized representative of the exception” if a timer expiration exception occurs, as claimed.

Gopal also fails to render obvious a system or method for generating or handling transaction exceptions. As claimed by applicants, a transaction

exception is generated when “content, format, security, availability, or other characteristics of a transaction are out of pre-determined boundaries.” Gopal discloses a system and method for message delivery. Gopal fails to render obvious “automatically locating an authorized representative” and “automatically notifying the authorized representative of the exception” if a business-to-business (B2B) transaction exception is generated.

Jawahar fails to remedy the deficiencies in Gopal in that Jawahar fails to render obvious a method or system for “handling timer expiration exceptions and transaction exceptions” in a B2B transaction as Applicants have claimed. Applicants respectfully submit that Jawahar teaches a method and apparatus for enabling collaboration between clients through a session host.

Applicants further respectfully submit that the combination of Gopal with Jawahar suggests a method and system for enabling collaboration between clients to ensure message delivery. The combination of Gopal with Jawahar fails to render obvious a method or system for “handling timer expiration exceptions and transaction exceptions” in a B2B transaction by “automatically locating an authorized representative, automatically notifying the authorized representative of the exception, and automatically establishing a collaboration session between representatives of the business-to-business transaction”, as claimed.

Claims 3 and 16

Claims 3 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gopal in view of Jawahar in further view of Kikinis (“Kikinis;” US Patent

Application No. 2004/0049562). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

As presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that Gopal and Jawahar, alone or in combination, do not render obvious the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 15, 25 and 29. Claim 3 is dependent on Claim 1 and recites additional limitations. Claim 16 is dependent on Claim 15 and recites additional limitations.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kikinis discloses an intelligent contact manager. Applicants also respectfully submit that Kikinis does not overcome the shortcomings of Gopal and Jawahar, alone or in combination. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Kikinis, alone or in combination with Gopal in view of Jawahar, does not show or suggest a method or system for “handling timer expiration exceptions and transaction exceptions” in a B2B transaction by “automatically locating an authorized representative, automatically notifying the authorized representative of the exception, and automatically establishing a collaboration session between representatives of the business-to-business transaction”, as claimed.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Gopal, Jawahar and Kikinis, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by independent Claims 1, 15, 25 and 29, and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Gopal, Jawahar and Kikinis, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claim 3 dependent on Claim 1 and Claim 16 dependent on Claim 15, and that Claims 3

and 16 are in condition for allowance because they are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that the basis for rejecting Claims 3 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

Claims 5, 8, 18 and 20

Claims 5, 8, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gopal in view of Jawahar in further view of Zhu, et al. ("Zhu;" US Patent Application No. 2002/0194272). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

As presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that Gopal and Jawahar, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 15, 25 and 29. Claims 5 and 8 are dependent on Claim 1 and recite additional limitations. Claims 18 and 20 are dependent on Claim 15 and recite additional limitations.

Applicants respectfully submit that Zhu teaches a system and method for web collaboration. Applicants also respectfully submit that Zhu does not overcome the shortcomings of Gopal and Jawahar. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Zhu, alone or in combination with Gopal and Jawahar, does not show or suggest a method or system for "handling timer expiration exceptions and transaction exceptions" in a B2B transaction by "automatically locating an authorized representative, automatically notifying the authorized representative of the exception, and automatically establishing a collaboration

session between representatives of the business-to-business transaction”, as claimed.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Gopal, Jawahar and Zhu, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by independent Claims 1, 15, 25 and 29, and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Gopal, Jawahar and Zhu, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 5 and 8 dependent on Claim 1 and Claims 18 and 20 dependent on Claim 15, and that Claims 5, 8, 18 and 20 are in condition for allowance because they are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that the basis for rejecting Claims 5, 8, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

Claims 10-12 and 22-24

Claims 10-12 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gopal in view of Jawahar in further view of Lettich, et al. (“Zhu,” US Patent Application No. 2002/0049622). The rejection is respectively traversed for the reasons below.

As presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that Gopal and Jawahar, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 15, 25 and 29. Claims 10-12 are dependent on Claim 1 and recite additional limitations. Claims 22-24 are dependent on Claim 15 and recite additional limitations.

Applicants respectfully submit that Lettich teaches a system and method pertaining to demand planning. Applicants also respectfully submit that Lettich does not overcome the shortcomings of Gopal and Jawahar. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Lettich, alone or in combination with Gopal and Jawahar, does not show or suggest a method or system for “handling timer expiration exceptions and transaction exceptions” in a B2B transaction by “automatically locating an authorized representative, automatically notifying the authorized representative of the exception, and automatically establishing a collaboration session between representatives of the business-to-business transaction”, as claimed.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Gopal, Jawahar and Lettich, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by independent Claims 1, 15, 25 and 29, and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Gopal, Jawahar and Lettich, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 10-12 dependent on Claim 1 and Claims 22-24 dependent on Claim 15, and that Claims 10-12 and 22-24 are in condition for allowance because they are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that the basis for rejecting Claims 10-12 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

CONCLUSION

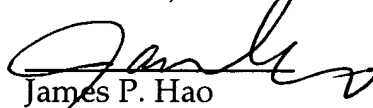
In light of the above listed amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejected Claims is requested. Based on the amendments and arguments presented

above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-8, 10-20 and 22-35 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1-8, 10-20 and 22-35 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant response, the Applicants invites the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,
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